

# Partnering with the Critter Clubs: “Lions, Eagles, Elks, Oh My!”



Thurston-WA Region 3  
Medical Reserve Corps  
Olympia, WA

**Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH**  
Lewis, Mason, and Thurston Counties' Health Officer

**Sammy B. Berg, RS**  
Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator



Public Health and Social Services Department  
<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health>





Thurston County, home to the state capitol and over 220,000 people.



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WASHINGTON  
SINCE 1882

Public Health and Social Services Department  
<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health>

The Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department has 125 employees and has been successful in responding to past public health crises.

- ❖ Norwalk virus at a popular summer swimming lake
- ❖ Hepatitis A immune globulin clinic over Christmas
- ❖ White powder calls!



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# Thurston-WA Region 3 Medical Reserve Corps

Started in 2001 as the Medical  
Community BT Response Team



The Medical Reserve Corps currently consists of 52 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, counselors, and others.



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# Flyer posted in womens' stalls at bars

## The Olympian

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HIGH 55 LOW 35

FORECAST, A8

50¢

### Man suspected of HIV crime

Police say he knowingly withheld positive status from sex partners

BY SCOTT GUTIERREZ  
THE OLYMPIAN

OLYMPIA — A Thurston County man was arrested this week on suspicion of knowingly exposing three women to HIV, authorities said Friday.

Anthony E. Whitfield, 31, faces charges of first-degree assault

after officials with Thurston County's Department of Health and Social Services learned he allegedly had sex with women without notifying them of his condition, despite orders to do so.

Whitfield exposed at least six women to the virus, authorities said. Four of them have tested positive. One tested negative,

although she'll be retested in three months.

Because the virus can take six months or more to appear in the body, it's too soon to get accurate results for a sixth woman who had sex with the suspect, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jim Powers said.

"It certainly shows you how

dangerous the situation is if you have someone who has the kind of potential for infection that he appears to have and yet demonstrates no responsibility for the safety of others," he said.

Whitfield was arrested Wednesday at a home in Lacey and made comments to police that raised concerns that still

other women may be at risk, Powers said. Whitfield's bail was set at \$250,000 during a hearing in Thurston County Superior Court.

He is scheduled for a hearing Monday in Thurston County Superior Court.



Whitfield

See HIV CHARGE, Page A2

**If you had sex with this person, call the  
Thurston County Public Health Department**

**Special phone hours only – no walk-ins**

**Sat April 3 and Sun April 4, 1-4 pm**

**Monday – Friday 8-5**

**786-5581 or 709-3080**

**Free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing available**

Thurston Co Health Dept  
786-5581 or 709-3080

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# HIV-testing calls inundate health office

County uses publicity of case to show risks of unprotected sex

BY SHARON MICHAEL  
THE OLYMPIAN

OLYMPIA — County health officials have been bombarded with inquiries about HIV/AIDS testing since the arrest last week of Anthony E. Whitfield, 31, the man charged with first-degree assault for continuing to have unprotected sex after testing positive for HIV.

Most of the calls were from people who had no association with Whitfield or the women he is accused of exposing to HIV, health officials say. They are using the publicity about the case to educate more people about the risks of unprotected sexual activity.



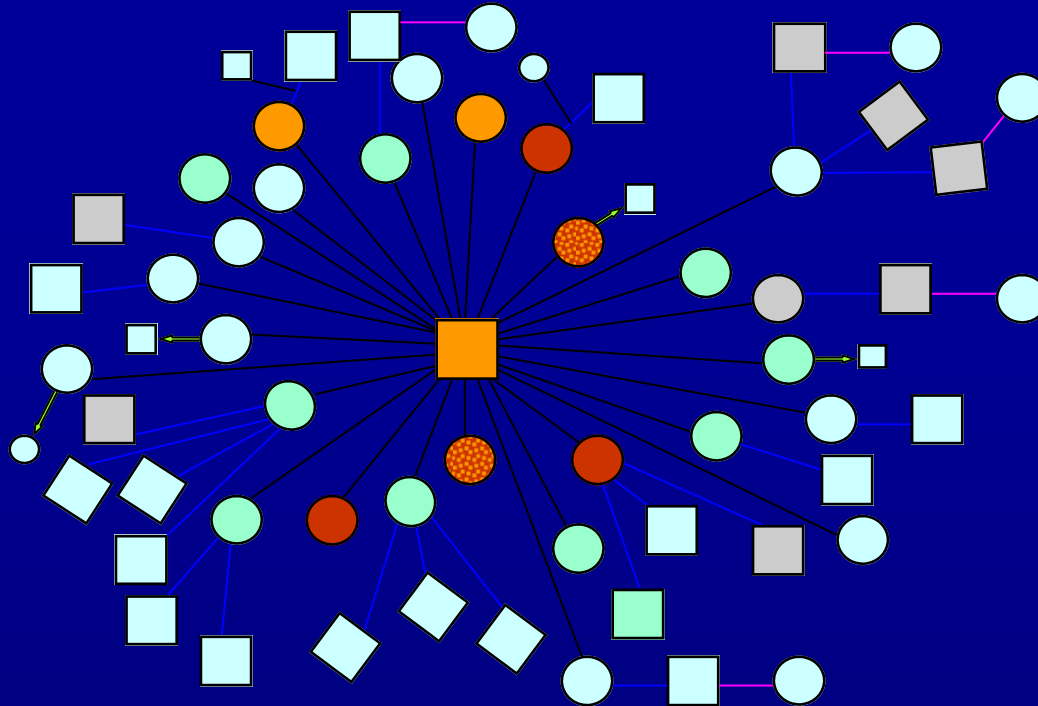
**Whitfield**

See **HIV**, Page B2

## To learn more

Information about HIV/AIDS is available from the Thurston County Health Department at 360-786-5581 or at [www.co.thurston.wa.us/health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health) and from United Communities AIDS Network at 360-352-2375 or [www.ucan-wa.org](http://www.ucan-wa.org).

Information about Washington State Department of Health HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs is available at [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/hiv.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/hiv.htm).



Over a ten day period, 170 possible contacts were investigated, 50 were counseled and tested, and 53 staff were reassigned to the case for a cost of over \$50,000 in staff costs alone.

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Smallpox vaccination clinics, pandemic influenza, severe earthquake; any of these can overwhelm our resources and require a new planning and response paradigm.

New paradigm:

May need 100-1000 staff

Former Incident Management Team was 10-20 staff

How many will need medical training? 20% or less?

Previous clinics were run entirely by health department staff

Dedicated federal funds to initiate planning and training efforts

Preparedness planning and training activities did not have dedicated funding and generally did not happen



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# POD – Point of Dispensing (shots or pills)

Approximately  
3,300 influenza  
vaccinations in  
one day

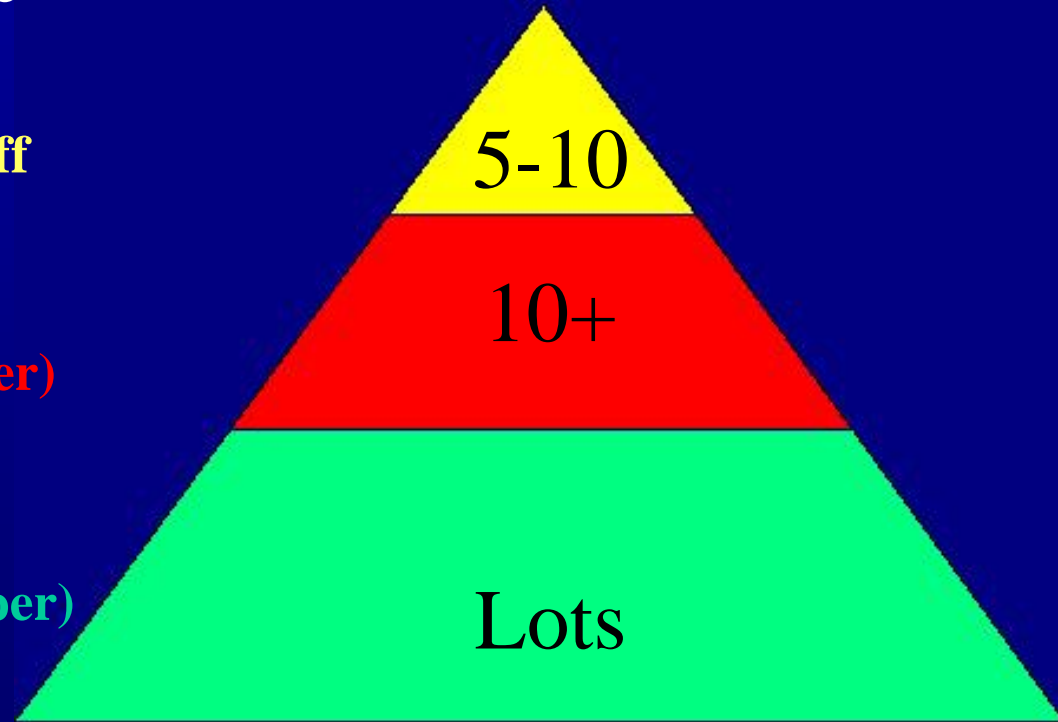




# Mass clinics: where will the bodies come from?

Three groups of staff will be needed:

- **Core public health leadership staff (5-10 per point of dispensing)**
- **Vetted medical volunteers (10+ per)**
- **Non-medical volunteers (dozens per)**



# Lions at the gate!



The Olympia Host Lions Club approached the health department in 2005 with an offer of help if needed. The question was in what fashion could they be most helpful.

# Lions Club: a quick history

Established in 1917, Lions Club International has 1.4 million members in 190 countries. The club has a major commitment to community health, focusing on blindness prevention worldwide, as well as drug abuse, diabetes, and helping communities in many other ways.

More information at: [www.LionsClubs.org](http://www.LionsClubs.org)

中文

English

Suomi

Français

Deutsch

Italiano

日本語

한국어

Português

Español

Svenska

Motto: "We serve"



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# Olympia Host Lions Club

A highly organized volunteer club with the ability to achieve large projects to the benefit of the community.



# The club has been eager to help in past emergencies



When a bad ice storm brought down thousands of tree limbs and trees in the area, the club contacted Thurston County and signed up to take care of a park.

They also pulled together the “Great Apple and Pear Haul of 2005”



# Advantages of the club's organization

Lions Clubs are international in scale, with an hierarchical organization that brakes down to the local level.

If the process works for this local club, similar club organization should allow other health departments to replicate the partnership with their Lions Clubs.





Clinics with Lions and MRC members helping have greatly helped us do our routine jobs as well as prepare us for an emergency



Services Department  
[on.wa.us/health](http://on.wa.us/health)



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2005/12/11



# What the Lions get out of this:

- a greater connection to the community,
- it is an important project,
- the publicity from this project has been helpful in member recruitment.





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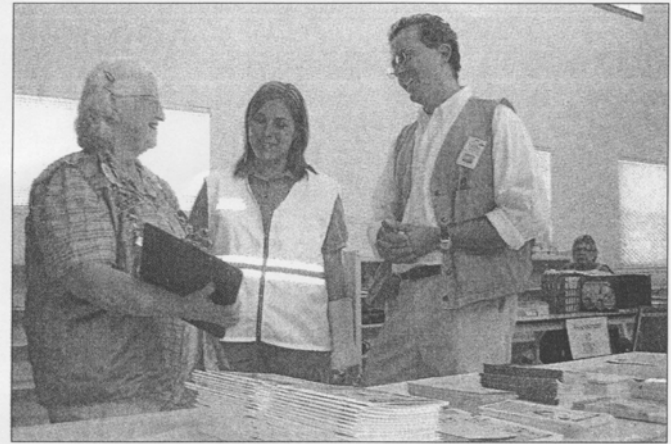


Photo by Cindy Teixeira  
Yelm Lion Lynn Kolilis helps immunization coordinator Amy Jungmann and environmental health specialist Sammy Berg during Thurston County Health Department's immunization clinic last week.

## Immunization clinic tests emergency response skills

By Cindy Teixeira  
*Nisqually Valley News*

Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department put its emergency response skills to work in Yelm last week, but it was only a drill.

An incident command station was set up with logistics and parking lot control at Yelm Community Services while area residents came in for immunizations.

Parents taking their children in for catch-up immunizations for school were met with a whole staff of health officials and volunteers in official looking vests.

Health department workers were using the occasion to "exercise our emergency pre-

immunizations, Jungmann said, but for those that need clinic, they're there.

Translation services and written materials were available in Spanish and Vietnamese.

Brenda Troyer brought in her three children, but only 11-year-old Alex needed updated shots.

"I don't know how he got behind," she said.

Alex received the combination vaccine for measles, mumps, and Rubella, or MMR, and a hepatitis A shot. His brother, 8-year-old Andy and little sister, Amy, 6, were glad that they didn't need any shots this time around.

Sammy Berg, Environmental Health Specialist, and Jungmann both said that although tuberculosis is a big threat, the biggest threat to the health of state residents is not getting immunized at all, or not keeping up to date.

Thurston County Health Department also offers other services at its Lilly Road clinic such as baby and child dentistry, family planning and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS outreach and prevention, maternal support and child health, STD clinic, tobacco cessation, WIC, vital records, and others.

All services are confidential and at little or no cost. DSHS coupons are accepted.

■ The health department clinic is located at 412 Lilly Road N. E., Olympia. For more information call 360-786-5581. Make appointments at 360-786-5583.

# The Olympian

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## Additional benefits to the club:

The Lions generally meet either weekly or every other week. They need presenters!

Upcoming presentations to the club will be on personal, family, and community preparedness. Training on mass clinic operations is also being prepared.

We also presented information on pandemic influenza and will likely do another one on West Nile Virus this summer.



# Conceptual framework

Initial request for help  
from health department  
to club leadership

Olympia Host Lions

Other clubs in county

Other volunteer groups in county

Internal club  
phone tree

Club to club  
phone tree

Club to group  
phone tree





# Is there room from more work on your public health plate?



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In an emergency, there's lots more  
where that came from!



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# Coordination

It is vital to coordinate our volunteer activities with the county department of emergency management and other agencies.



Thurston County Emergency Operations Center



Public Health and Social Services Department  
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# How it the partnership with the Lions has worked so far:

Great!

Lions have helped with three clinic  
exercises, in conjunction with the  
Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.

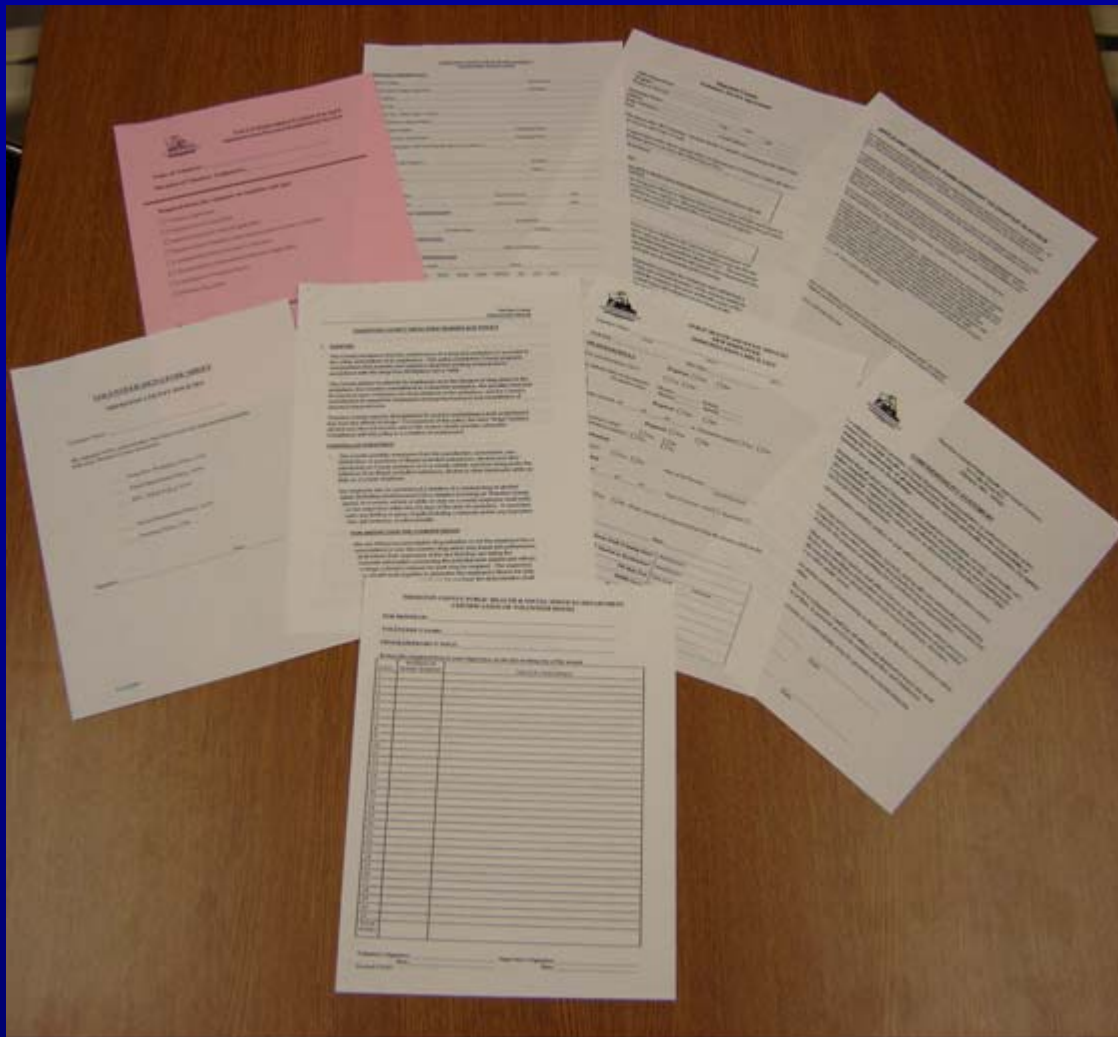
The experience has provided a lot of  
feedback on our plans and procedures.



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The bureaucracy's happy place.

Under “normal” circumstances, this is the volunteer registration packet for the health department.



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POD FLOW MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES		
CLINIC LOCATION & SHIFT:	Yelm/Thurston Co Health Department	
REPORTS TO:	Flow Monitor Lead	[WRITE NAME]
DIRECT REPORTS:	N/A	[WRITE NAME]
FUNCTIONAL AREA:	Throughout the POD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maintain control over how many people are inside the clinic; too many people inside will hinder clinic operations</li> <li>➤ control the number of people waiting at each station (the Flow Monitor Lead will direct how many people to allow into each clinic area)</li> <li>➤ Identify and report bottlenecks</li> <li>➤ Flow Monitors at the front entrance will direct special needs individuals appropriately</li> </ul>		



## Hand-Held Radio Use 101

OR

“How to use a radio without losing an eye”

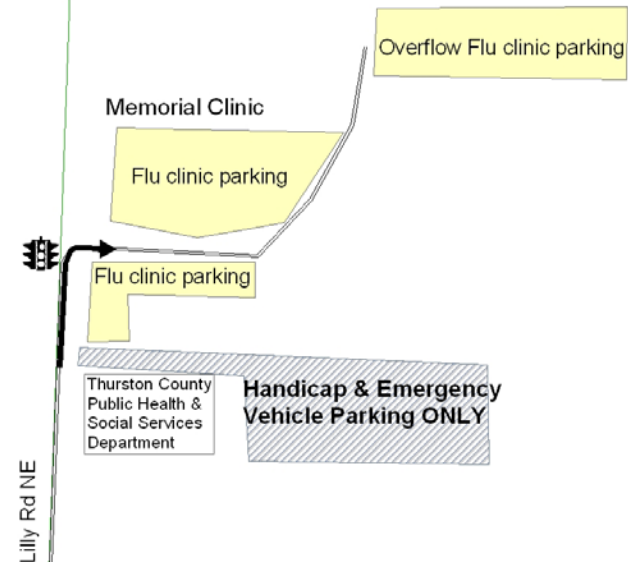


These are some basic Family Radio Service (FRS) radios. They retail for around \$40. They have a limited range (at most 2 miles out in a field), and are easy to use.

The basic concept is:

- push the button on the side to talk **and** hold it down while talking,
- release the button to hear the other person respond.

Providence  
St. Peter Hospital  
H



# Long term visions of the future

Future clinics will be planned and operated under the incident command system, with help from Medical Reserve Corps and Lions volunteers.

Other public health initiatives:

- West Nile Virus surveillance and public information dissemination.



# Next steps:

We need to formalize the relationship with a written Memorandum of Understanding.

Continue to refine the process.

Advocate similar relationships in the region and state.

Maintain the partnership, putting effort into creating opportunities for both parties to benefit from it.





# How to attract Lions

As with other community groups in your area,  
getting your foot in the door is half the battle.

Are any of your staff members? How about  
elected officials? Neighbors?

Kiwanis, Rotary, non-animal clubs are welcome  
too!



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# How to attract Lions



These are only suggestions and should only be performed by trained professionals.



# Is this guy done talking yet?

No...well almost.

Final message: most health departments do not have the resources to develop and sustain the large volunteer groups necessary to staff the mass clinics we need to plan for. Using existing volunteer groups in your community can greatly add to your available resources. Use them.



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# Partnering with the Critter Clubs: “Lions, Eagles, Elks, Oh My!”

19 April 2006

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